

**THE
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PRICE SEVENPENCE

**This dangerous
man MUST
be stopped!**

A MASSIVE loophole in the law which, if it remains unplugged, will permit a leader of the "legalise marijuana" campaign to manufacture synthetic cannabis and use it with impunity, has been discovered by the News of the World and reported to the Home Office.

"We shall be watching the situation," said a spokesman yesterday.

The man behind the plan is 29-year-old American psychologist Steve Abrams, who has been a cannabis taker for five years.

The drug he plans to manufacture and use in research is called Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC for short). THC is 100 times

In its pure form, THC is 100 times stronger than natural cannabis. But due to a gap in existing legislation, its possession or use is not an offence.

Plans laboratory

Mr Abrams, who has appeared on television advocating the use of marijuana, plans to make THC at a laboratory in a dingy building in Fulham, London.

Last week, he issued a leaflet through an organisation he runs called SOMA (the Society Of Mental Awareness).

Appealing for funds (SOMA membership is £3) and declaring that "a large number" of volunteers would be needed for drug experiments, the leaflet said.

It is probable that the legalisation of cannabis will be considerably delayed if SOMA is unable to commence clinical trials with THC.

Mr Abrams listed an "advisory committee" of seven men, including Nobel prizewinners Dr Francis Crick, of Cambridge University, and Dr Montague Phillips, a chemical consultant who was co-discoverer of the wonder drug M and B.

According to the leaflet, production of THC would proceed under the supervision of Dr Phillips, who is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Far more

But last night Dr Phillips revealed from his home at Upminster, Essex, that he had disassociated himself from the project.

"I was asked to help design the laboratory in my professional capacity as a consultant chemist," he said.

"Since it appeared that the plans were to make far more material than could be justified for research, I thought it best to withdraw."

"My name was included in the pamphlet without my knowledge or consent."

Dr Crick said he was "not in a position to comment."

And Dr Anthony Storr, whose name was also listed on the "advisory committee," told us:

"I have not had any literature from SOMA for several months now. I don't know the details of what Mr Abrams is planning but the people who do this research ought to be supervised by an organisation like the Medical Research Council."

HE'S FOUND A LEGAL WAY TO MAKE DRUGS

IN THE KNOW investigation

The Home Office, we discovered, was aware of Mr Abrams and of his plan to use THC for research.

However, it was apparently unworried by his professed belief in legalising "pot"... or his five-year history of taking cannabis supplied to him on prescription.

Mr Abrams has strange bedfellows in what he claims to be a scientific undertaking.

In the latest edition of the "hippie" news sheet International Times the SOMA leaflet asking for funds for its THC project is printed next to a clarion call for a "legalise pot" rally in Hyde Park today.

Changing

SOMA has helped to sponsor a publicity poster for the rally.

Associated with SOMA in the plan to make synthetic pot is a recently formed company called Accadem Ltd., which is in the process of changing its name to Avalon Botanicals Ltd.

Its nominal capital is £100 and only two £1 shares have been paid up. One is held by Mr Abrams and the other by Kensington estate agent Mr Glynn Earle Welby-Everard. They are also the directors. SOMA itself was founded last year to sponsor research on drugs and to campaign for changes in the drugs laws.

Mr Abrams told us that the

plan is for its members to volunteer to take THC and for their reactions to be tested.

He hoped the results would help persuade Parliament to legalise marijuana.

As we were interviewed Mr Abrams in his basement flat in Holland Road, Kensington, he received a telephone call from someone seeking a doctor who would prescribe cannabis.

He said he was unable to help.

Mr Abrams, who has lived in Britain for eight years, told us: "Obviously, if there are any harmful effects in using cannabis, I want to know about them—and to have the credit for finding this out."

"But my own view, which goes beyond what many members of SOMA want, is



STEVE ABRAMS: "My own view, which goes beyond what many members of SOMA want, is for cannabis to eventually replace tobacco"



The dingy London offices of Accadem Ltd.